(b) whether assistance from the bordering State Governments is being sought/received;

(c) if not, the hurdles therein;

(d) whether any efforts have also been made to get assistance from reliable voluntary organisations; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Sashastra Seema bal (SSB) and Border Security Force (BSF) are the border guarding forces deployed on India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh border respectively. The forces maintain round the clock surveillance of the border and work in close coordination with the State Governments. The forces have also beefed up their intelligence network and coordination with other intelligence agencies. The agencies also have their local sources for information gathering.

Disposal of mercy petitions since Independence

815. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure prescribed, if any, for submission and examination of the mercy petitions filed under Article 72 of the Constitution of India on behalf of convicts after the sentence of capital punishment has been confimed by the Apex Court;

(b) the details, since Independence, of mercy petitions filed, disposed of and remaining pending at the end of each decade duly indicating the number of cases where mercy was granted and refused; and

(c) the details of mercy petition pending as on October 31, 2006 indicating the period since when pending, in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the procedure prescribed for dealing with mercy petitions, a petition can be filed by a condemned prisoner or on his befalf to the Hon'ble President of India or Governor. The petition preferred as such, is considered under Article 161 of the Constitution by the Governor. In case of rejection by the Governor the petition is considered by the Hon'ble President of India under Article 72 of the Constitution of

India. No specific guidelines can be framed for examining the mercy petitions as the power under Article 72 of the Constitution is of the widest amplitude, can contemplate myriad kinds and categories of cases with facts and situations varying from case to case. However, the broad guidelines generally considered while examining the mercy petitions are personality of the accused such as age, sex or mental deficiency or circumstances of the case, conduct of the accused such as age, sex or mental deficiency or circumstances of the case, conduct of the offender, medical abnormality falling short of legal insanity and so on.

(b) a Statement-I containing the details of mercy petitions disposed of at the end of each decade, duly indicating number of cases where mercy was commuted and rejected is enclosed (see below).

(c) A statement-II containing the details of mercy petitions pending as on October 31, 2006 indicating the period since when pending is enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of mercy petitions

Decade-wise	Rejected	Commuted	Total
1965-1974	491	543	1034
1975-1984	121	52	173
1985-1994	41	4	45
1995-2006	7	2	9

Statement-II

Details of pending mercy petitions

As on 31.10.2006

Sl.No.	Name of condemned prisoner/s	Date of receipt from the State Government/ Pending
1	2	3
1	Peara Singh, Sarabjit Singh, Gurdev Singh and Satnam Singh-Punjab	2003

1	2	3
2	Shyam Manohar, Sheo Ram, Prakash, Suresh, Ravinder and Harish-U.P.	1998
3	R. Govindasamy-Tamil Nadu	1998
4	Mohan and Gopi-Tamil Nadu	1999
5	Murugan, Santhan and Arivu-Tamil Nadu	2000
6	Jai Kumar-Madhya Pradesh	1999
7	Mahender Nath Das-Assam	2000
8	Sheikh Meeran, Selvam and Radhakrishnan-Tamil Nadu	2000
9	Shobhit Chamar-Bihar	1999
10	S.B. Pingale-Maharashtra	2001
11	Dharmender Kumar and Narendra Yadav-U.P.	1999
12	Dharm Pal-Haryana	1999
13	Molai Ram and Santosh-Madhya Pradesh	2000
14	Suresh and Ramji-U.P.	2002
15	Devender Pal Singh-Delhi	2003
16	Om Prakash-Uttaranchal	2003
17	Praveen Kumar-Karnataka	2004
18	Simon, Ghanaprakash,Madaiah, Bilavendra-Karnataka	2004
19	Kunwar Bahadur Singh and Karan bahadur Singh-U.P.	2005
20	Sushil Murmu-Jharkhand	2004
21	Lal Chand, Shivlal-Rajasthan	2004
22	Jafar Ali-U.P.	2006
23	Mohd. Afzal-Delhi	2006